

Appl. No. : 10/621,010  
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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 22.

Please amend Claims 3, 6-21, 23-28, 30, 34, 36, 37, and 39-41 as follows:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

3. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 2,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, and wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution;

filling said chamber with said reference electrolyte solution, said reference electrolyte solution having a viscosity  $\eta$ , and

pressurizing the electrolyte solution to a pressure  $P_E$ ;

wherein the electrolyte solution comprises a surfactant.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

6. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 5,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, and wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution;

filling said chamber with said reference electrolyte solution, said reference electrolyte solution having a viscosity  $\eta$ ;

pressurizing the electrolyte solution to a pressure  $P_E$ ;

configuring the reference electrode such that the liquid junction member can be brought into fluid communication with a sample solution such that the junction member is situated between the electrolyte solution and the sample solution; and

selecting  $\Delta P$ ,  $D$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $L$  such that  $\frac{D^2 \Delta P}{32\eta L}$  is greater than about 0.1 centimeter per second, wherein  $\Delta P$  is a pressure differential between  $P_E$  and a pressure  $P_S$  of the sample solution, and wherein  $\Delta P$  is greater than approximately 10 psi and less than approximately 100 psi.

7. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim 5, A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having  $N$  discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters  $D$  and lengths  $L$ , wherein  $N$  is less than approximately 100,000, and wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution;

filling said chamber with said reference electrolyte solution, said reference electrolyte solution having a viscosity  $\eta$ ;

pressurizing the electrolyte solution to a pressure  $P_E$ ;

configuring the reference electrode such that the liquid junction member can be brought into fluid communication with a sample solution such that the junction member is situated between the electrolyte solution and the sample solution; and

selecting  $\Delta P$ ,  $D$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $L$  such that  $\frac{D^2 \Delta P}{32\eta L}$  is greater than about 0.1 centimeter per second, wherein  $\Delta P$  is a pressure differential between  $P_E$  and a pressure  $P_S$  of the sample solution, and wherein  $\Delta P$  is less than approximately 70 psi.

8. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein  $N$  is less than approximately 50,000.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein N is less than approximately 10,000.
10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein N is less than approximately 1,000.
11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein N is greater than approximately 10.
12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein N is greater than approximately 100.
13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein a diameter  $D_i$  of any one nanochannel is substantially equal to a diameter  $D_j$  of any other nanochannel.
14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein D is greater than approximately 1 nanometer and less than approximately 900 nanometers.
15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein D is greater than approximately 5 nanometers and less than approximately 750 nanometers.
16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein D is greater than approximately 10 nanometers and less than approximately 500 nanometers.
17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein D is greater than approximately 40 nanometers and less than approximately 250 nanometers.
18. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 1;~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:  
providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and  
providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately

100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein L is greater than approximately 0.5 micrometer and less than approximately 500 micrometers.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4 18, wherein L is greater than approximately 6 micrometers and less than approximately 400 micrometers.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein L is greater than approximately 500 micrometers.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein the nanochannels are substantially straight and substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 22,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the nanochannels are coated with a material selected from the group consisting of gold, platinum, and palladium.

24. (**Currently amended**) ~~The method of Claim 22,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the nanochannels are coated with a hydrophilic material.

25. (**Currently amended**) ~~The method of Claim 22,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the nanochannels are coated with a hydrophobic material.

26. (**Currently amended**) ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the junction member is manufactured as a single planar element.

27. (**Currently amended**) ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the junction member comprises a rigid support member.

28. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the junction member is a laminate comprising at least one multiple planar element.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 28, wherein at least one of the multiple planar element is selected from the group consisting of a pressure sensor, a temperature sensor, a flow rate sensor, an electrical resistance sensor, a redox potential sensor, a conductivity sensor, and a pH sensor.

30. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:

providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution; and

providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution, and wherein the junction member comprises a planar element of microchannels coupled to a planar element of nanochannels.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, wherein the planar element of microchannels is bonded to the planar element of nanochannels.
32. (Original) The method of Claim 30, wherein the planar element of the microchannels is thermally or adhesively bonded to the planar element.
33. (Original) The method of Claim 30, wherein the microchannels have widths greater than approximately 5 micrometers and less than approximately 25 micrometers.
34. (**Currently amended**) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein the junction member is made of a polymer.
35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyethylene, and polyimide.
36. (**Currently amended**) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein the junction member is made of silicon, glass, or ceramic.
37. (**Currently amended**) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, further comprising providing means for pressurizing the electrolyte solution.
38. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the means for pressurizing is selected from the group consisting of a pressurized collapsible bladder, an electro-osmotic pump, a mechanical pump, a piezo-electric pump, and a electro-hydrodynamic pump.
39. (**Currently amended**) ~~The method of Claim 38, wherein the mechanical pump comprises~~ A method of manufacturing a flowing junction reference electrode, the method comprising:  
providing a chamber for receiving a reference electrolyte solution, wherein the chamber is configured to allow pressurization of the electrolyte solution;

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providing a liquid junction member having N discrete nanochannels, the nanochannels having diameters D and lengths L, wherein N is less than approximately 100,000, wherein the member is in fluid communication with the electrolyte solution; and providing a mechanical piston-driven pump for pressurizing the electrolyte solution.

40. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~38~~ 39, wherein the mechanical piston-driven pump comprises a spring-loaded piston drive.

41. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, further comprising providing a sensing electrode.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein the sensing electrode is selected from the group consisting of pH electrodes, other ion-selective electrodes, and redox electrodes.